

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 8, 2005, the examiner rejected applicant's claims 30, 32, 34 and 38 for alleged obviousness under 35 USC 103, in view of the cited Tokunaga, U.S. Patent 5,168,281 and Hemingway, U.S. Patent 5,119,072 references. Claims 35-37 were indicated to recite allowable subject matter, and claims 41, 43 and 44 were allowed.

In response, applicant has re-written dependent claim 35 in independent form, consistent with the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 35 as now presented is respectfully believed to be in proper condition for allowance. Since related dependent claims 36 and 37 depend from claim 35, these claims 36-37 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, by this response, independent claim 30 has been revised to incorporate the limitations from related and now-canceled dependent claim 34. In making this revision to claim 30, applicant has also substituted the original term "slide-fit" with the replacement term "slide-through". A similar revision to independent claim 38, namely, substitution of the original term "slide-fit" with the replacement term "slide-through" has been implemented by this response. In this regard, the term "slide-through" is believed to be more descriptive of the "opening" in the "securement means", as recited in these claims. Moreover, the term "slide-through" is believed to be more consistent with the previous claim terminology requiring this "opening" to accommodate "passage" "therethrough" of the strap second end.

With these revisions to independent claims 30 and 38, and the related cancellation of dependent claim 34, applicant respectfully submits claims 30, 32 (depends from amended claim 30) and 38 for reconsideration and allowance.

More particularly, independent claims 30 and 38 positively recite the invention to include the elongated "strap having first and second opposite ends" in combination with the "securement means" for assembly with the strap. Specifically, the "securement means" has a "fastening element"

engageable with a "fastening opening" in the "strap first end". In addition, and contrary to the cited references, the same "securement means" as claimed further defines "an opening extending therethrough for slide-through passage of said strap second end" (claims 30 and 38, emphasis added). No such additional "opening" extending through the securement means, for slide-through passage of the strap "second end" is disclosed or suggested in any way by the cited art.

The Tokunaga reference discloses a wristwatch style device having a main housing encasing an electronic receiver or the like, wherein this main housing is adapted for assembly with a wristband having an antenna encased therein. Screws 14 removably attach the band 2 to the main housing. Tokunaga shows only one side of the main housing and its attachment to the associated band 2; presumably, Tokunaga envisions a mirror image connection at the opposite side of the main housing to a second band 2.

However, the Tokunaga reference does not disclose or suggest any "securement means" having "an opening extending therethrough for slide-through passage of said strap second end" (emphasis added), as recited in applicant's claims 30 and 38 as now presented. At best, and as noted by the examiner in the Office Action, Tokunaga's main housing defines an opening (defined between elements 1 and 8) "into which portion 4 [of the strap] extends" (Office Action, p. 3, lines 5-8). But Tokunaga's "opening" in Tokunaga does not extend through the main housing (as required by claims 30 and 38) and thus does not and cannot accommodate "slide-through passage" of any "second end" of the strap 2 – again as required by claims 30 and 38.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 30 and 38 differentiate clearly and patentably from the cited Tokunaga reference.

Applicant notes the examiner's additional citation of the Hemingway patent to support the rejection of claims 30, 32, 34 and 38 for obviousness. As understood, Hemingway has been cited for disclosing placement of a radio frequency circuit within a wrist-carried device. By contrast, Hemingway clearly does not disclose or suggest applicant's claimed "securement means"

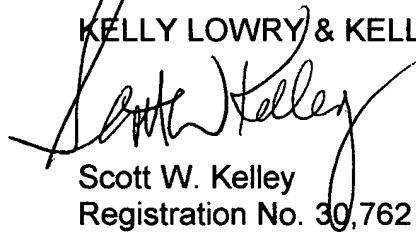
having the "opening extending therethrough for slide-through passage of said strap second end" (emphasis added) as recited in claims 30 and 38 as now presented. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the Hemingway reference does not provide any teaching capable of overcoming the above-discussed deficiencies of the primary reference to Tokunaga, and, as such, that claims 30 and 38 as now presented are clearly patentable over any combination of the Tokunaga and Hemingway references.

Conclusion

In conclusion, in view of the foregoing remarks and related revisions to the claims, claims 30, 32, 35-38, 41 and 43-44 as now presented are submitted for reconsideration and allowance. A Notice of Allowance is believed to be in order, and is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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